(d) The towns proposed are: Gaya, Sapaul, Forbesganj, Lohardaga, Sheohar, Madhopura, Raxaul, Araia, Khagaria.

Labour Oriented Food Processing Industries

85. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Food Processing Industries can be developed as Labour oriented industry in the country;

(b) if so, reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government have taken any effective steps for developing Food Processing Industries as labour-oriented industry in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether certain institutions are working for the development of Food Processing Industries in the country; and

(f) if so, the names thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) to (f). Considering amongst other aspects, the high employment generating potential in food processing industries with comparatively lesser investment. Government have taken steps to encourage investment in this sector, liberalised policies for investment including foreign investment, removal of restrictions thereon, as well as on capacity expansion, technology acquisition etc.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has formulated and is operating various plan schemes for the overall development of this sector. Under these schemes financial assistance is provided to State Government Organisations, Voluntary Organisations, Cooperative Agencies, Joint Sectors etc. The broad objectives are for setting up or enlarging processing facilities, developing backward linkages with farmers and, market support for various food processing sectors including meat & fish processing, setting up of cold chain, research & development, food packaging, and training of manpower.

Development of Calcutta

86. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kailikata Nagarik Sammelan, submitted a memorandum to the then Prime Minister in December, 1995 on over-all development of Calcutta;

(b) if so, whether any action has since been taken thereon; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). In connection with implementation of projects benefitting Calcutta Metropolitan area, the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment has released an amount of Rs.18.08 crores during 1995-96 and Rs.9.00 crores during 1996-97 so far to Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Infrastructure Development in Mega Cities. Regarding enhanced allocation of funds for the calcutta Mega City project the matter has been taken up with the Planning Commission at the level of Minister of State of Urban Affairs & Employment.

North-Eastern Council

88. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the North-Eastern Council has so far failed to live up to its expectations in fulfilling the aspiration of the people of the region;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the fund allotted by North Eastern Council to different States in the Last three financial years; year wise and State wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to reorganise the N.E.C. to make it more effective; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (e) The North Eastern Council (NEC has been set up as a regional planning body primarily for the balanced development of the North Eastern Regions. Many of NEC projects have inter-state ramifications and are executed by Central Public Sector Units/organisations. It is, therefore, not possible to quantify the funds allotted to different States. NEC supplements the efforts of State Governments and is not expected to meet all the needs of the region. Some of the projects of NEC have suffered time and cost over-runs for various reasons including delays by implementing agencies, difficult terrain, infrastructural bottlenecks etc. The matter regarding restructuring of the NEC has been engaging the attention of the Government.

Space Technology

89. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Canada have agreed to extend cooperation in the field of space technology;